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*Prize Essay on Peace.* The friends of peace in England proposed a short time ago, to raise one hundred guineas for the best essay on the principles of peace; and one hundred and fifteen are already subscribed. A good movement.

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#### PAUPERISM IN WAR-COUNTRIES.

The entire population of Europe are groaning beneath the burdens of war which have been accumulating upon them for ages. The extreme poverty of the laboring classes is the legitimate offspring of their system; and the following account will show to what a fearful extent pauperism there prevails.

“According to recent calculations, there are at present in Europe 10,897,333 paupers; that is, one twentieth of the whole population. The number of the laboring classes who depend wholly on their toil, and whom the least change would plunge into want, amounts to 50,000,000, or one fifth of the general population. The mass of the indigent approaches 17,000,000. London includes 105,000 paupers in 1,350,000 inhabitants. In 1801, there were estimated to be at Vienna, in a population of 270,000, 37,554 paupers. In 1822, in consequence of the adoption of wise administrative measures, the number was reduced to 20,581. In 1793, there existed at Copenhagen, 3,400 paupers in 120,000 inhabitants. In 1798, when the religious orders were suppressed, the poor list of Rome amounted to more than 30,000 in a population of 147,000. The poor population of Italy amounts to one twenty-fifth of the whole. At Venice it was lately estimated that in a population of 100,000 there were 70,000 poor. At Amsterdam, not long since, there were more than 80,000 poor in a population of 217,000. At Berlin, of 180,000 inhabitants, but 12,000 are paupers. In the canton of Glaris, in Switzerland, one fourth of the population is in indigence.”

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#### DEATH OF COUNT DE SELLON.

*Letter from the Countess de Sellon to the president of the A. P. Society, translated from the French.*

SIR,—The Countess de Sellon and her children have the honor to make you acquainted with the unhappy loss which they have been called to suffer in the person of Monsieur, the Count de Sellon, their husband and father, deceased June 7, 1839, at the age of 57 years.

*De la Fenetre, near Geneva.*

[The above is lithographed; the following is written.]

SIR,—I feel the necessity of adding a few lines to the above melancholy circular, which the interest and the sympathy that you have

always manifested toward him whose loss we lament, make it our duty to address you. It is also our duty to request of you, Sir, the continuance of that interest and that sympathy for the future, which, in dying, our dearly beloved spouse and father has left us. His last will has left to his heirs the interesting task of publishing annually, for ten years from the date of his death, a work in favor of peace. This work will probably be also the organ of the Peace Society of Geneva, which we hope will survive its worthy founder and president, to whom one might apply with justice, that which also we lately read of you, Sir, in the London Herald of Peace, viz., that what he was in Geneva, you are in America, Sir, the soul, and the light, and the life of society, filling by an indefatigable zeal and ardor, the gaps which members, less convinced than he of the holiness of this cause, have left in their labors. The cause of peace, that of the inviolability of human life, have lost then, in him, one of their warmest defenders, and we, his family, which is composed only of a widow and four daughters, are plunged alas, into despair, by the loss of their dearly beloved head. We deeply feel our weakness and our insufficiency for this task, and we request you, Sir, to help us by the assistance of your light, and by continuing to send us all the periodicals and other publications of the society which you direct with so much zeal and devotion.

Please accept, Sir, the assurance of the high esteem and most distinguished consideration of

CECILE DE SELLON.

P. S. Dare I request of you, Sir, to communicate our misfortune to Mr. Henry Barnard, of Hartford, whom we had the pleasure to receive here about two years ago. He was witness to the *extreme* ardor with which my dearly beloved husband pursued this work, and his deeds; an ardor which (with respect to second causes) contributed to undermine his precious health and take him from us. But, Sir, that was for him *the way* which conducted him to his Saviour. Your Christian heart will understand what a source of happiness and consolation this affords us, in our profound grief.

*Extract from the answer to the foregoing.*

MINOT, State of Maine, U. S. of N. America, Oct. 14, 1839.

To Madam the Countess de Sellon.

DEAR MADAM,—A few days ago, while absent from home, I received your melancholy circular, announcing the death of your dear husband,—dear to you, dear to his children, dear to me, and dear to every philanthropist in the world. I was prepared for your mournful letter, by hearing, a few days before, the same melancholy tidings from London; but your letter, written in such tender and appropriate language, opened my wounds afresh. Yet I can hardly realize that the great and good de Sellon, my junior by four years, is no more. It has pleased God to take him, thus early, to his reward, and to leave the cause of humanity to mourn. “Even so, Father, for so it seemed good in thy sight.” “Not my will but thine be done.” Dark and inscrutable are the ways of Providence; and it requires great faith to be always reconciled to them. Being heartily engaged in the same cause, I dearly loved your husband, though I never saw him, and I love his family for his sake; and I often anticipated the pleasure of seeing him and his family in Geneva, which I had deter-

mined to do if I ever revisited Europe. Now, one great inducement to such a voyage is taken away, and I despair of ever again seeing that country; but should I do so, God willing, I will visit the ashes of my good friend and bedew his monument with my tears. How willingly would I wipe yours from your eyes, and embrace your daughters and adopt them for my own, for I am childless. But let us be comforted; though we shall see your dear departed husband no more on earth, we shall, I trust, meet in heaven, for it is written, "Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord, for they rest from their labors, and their works do follow them."

You overrate my poor abilities by placing me beside the good and great de Sellon. It is true that I embraced the principles of peace as soon as they were presented to my mind, for I am naturally inclined to mercy, and I never could see even a brute suffer, without painful emotions; and having a moderate competency, which for many years I have had no desire to increase, from the moment that I first perceived the truth and beauty of the gospel principles of peace I embraced them, and for nearly the last twenty years, I have made it almost my sole object to impart that light and happiness to others which I saw and felt myself; and God has prospered me beyond my most sanguine expectations. But this has been owing more to my circumstances and zeal, than to my talents or weight of character. There are other friends of peace in this country, of more talents and zeal than myself, whose circumstances do not allow them to be so much engaged in the cause as I am; and my elevation to the presidency of the Peace Society is more owing to my zeal and my leisure than to my ability or influence. Having no other occupation than the superintendence of my little farm, a paternal inheritance, I am able to devote my time and my means to this cause, as the chief object of my life; but I would gladly resign my office to some person of more talents and weight of character, who by his superior energy and ability would give an impetus to the cause, which it has never had under my administration, for I am more suited to the station of an operative than of a director.

It is melancholy to observe what havoc death has made in our ranks. We have attacked the "king of terrors" in his very citadel, and he has glutted himself with revenge. First, Worcester, the great originator of the cause in America, was his distinguished victim; then Cassimir Perrier, prime minister of France, the most influential friend of peace in the world; then Grimké, the most able defender the cause has ever had in America, cut down in his prime; then Cassimir Rostan, the Baptist missionary in France. These three the grim tyrant took off by the cholera, with which God permitted him to afflict the human race during the interval of war, a light affliction, compared with war, if it had not taken such characters; but death made up for the paucity of his numbers, by the magnitude of his victims. Then followed Berans, the actuary and zealous secretary of the London Peace Society; and now last, but not least, the talented, indefatigable and influential de Sellon. Who next will fall a prey to him, God only knows; but he cannot find another so precious as those he has already taken, and must lower his aim, when next he shoots at the friends of peace. But we have reason to thank God, that though man is mortal, the cause is immortal, for we have his

sacred promise, that it shall prevail, that the time shall come when swords shall be beaten into ploughshares, and the nations shall *learn* war no more.

With respect to your request that I should assist you in the direction of the periodical of the Peace Society of Geneva, by forwarding ours to you, the only obstacle is the difficulty of communication between this country and Switzerland. An international post-office will be one of the objects of a congress of nations. When such a post-office shall have been established, a letter, or a periodical, may be dropped into the post-office of any obscure village in the world, and will find its destination with certainty and regularity.

I am particularly anxious to know how the prize of 400 franks, offered by your late husband for the best dissertation on a congress of nations, was disposed of; and if any dissertation was published, I should like to get a copy. Our prize is adjudged to be divided among five of the authors of the best dissertations; and the volume containing them is just put to press. When it is finished, I will send you some copies.

Now, my dear madam, farewell. I commend you to God, praying that you may find that consolation in the bosom of your Saviour, which the world can neither give nor take away. Please accept the assurance of my high consideration and esteem.

Your friend and fellow-laborer in the cause of peace,

To Madam the Countess de Sellon.

WM. LADD.

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#### LONDON CORRESPONDENCE.

We gave in our last a part of two paragraphs from one of our correspondents in London, touching non-government; and we subjoin from the same writer (Rev. J. Hargreaves), a few extracts from a recent letter which may serve to show how thorough a man may be on peace without renouncing human government.

"The taking away of human life, by an armed force, is, in my opinion, unlawful under any circumstances, let the provocation be what it may. The life of man is inviolably the property of God, and no man, nor any body of men, under any name, or any pretext, can invade that property without sin, no, not even by what is called a judicial process. The battle-field presents nothing but a scene of wholesale butchery and murder. As it is not right or lawful in either case to precipitate a person into eternity beyond the possibility of reformation or repentance, so it is not necessary or expedient. Other methods may be resorted to to adjust differences between contending nations. An appeal to the sword, were it not barbarous and wicked, never did, and never can settle the dispute, nor prove who has justice on his side. You have done much already, and I hope you will long be spared to do much more, to convince the various civilized nations of the world, that a tribunal may be formed to adjust international disputes, upon principles of equity. Provided that the complaining party should not be entirely satisfied, yet the award would, to a rational mind under proper feelings, be infinitely